

IT IS CIVIL WAR.

A Crisis Reached Between Republicans and Populists

IN THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE,

And the Capitol Building Now Surrounded by Soldiers.

TROOPS HURRYING TO THE SCENE

From All Parts of the State on a Call from the Governor.

REPUBLICANS ARE UNDER SIEGE

And May Be Starved Out of Their Stronghold Shortly.

WHILE HUNDREDS OF VOLUNTEERS

Are Enroute to Assist Them in Their Fight for Justice.

STATE HOUSE DOORS BATTERED IN

By Sledge-Hammers, One of Which is Afterward Used as a Gavel to Call the Republican House to Order. The Republicans Issue an Address to the People Asking Their Support in the Fight Against Anarchy and Defiance of the Courts--The Populist Governor Controls the Military Authorities and Resolves to Starve Out the Republicans--An Armed Conflict Probable and Bleeding Kansas May Bleed Again.

TOPEKA, KAN., Feb. 15.--Bleeding Kansas nearly bled again to-day. Nothing but the wisest counsel of the calm leaders of the opposing parties to the struggle for the control of the lower house of the legislature prevented a serious conflict and the shedding of blood.

The Republican members, anticipating opposition to their entrance to representative hall, gathered in a body at the Copeland hotel early this morning and marched to the capitol. There they found the corridor and the stairway leading to the hall in the possession of a Populist guard of twenty men.

In a hand to hand fight, in which several revolvers made their appearance, but were not put to use, they fought their way to the doors of the hall which they found had been locked and barred. Two sledge hammers had been provided for that emergency and their vigorous use by Speaker Douglas and Speaker Pro Tem Heron soon gave the Republican entrance. Having gained entrance they barricaded the doors from within and prepared for an assault.

They had not prepared for a siege, however, and they are now suffering the pangs of hunger and the nips of frost. Soon after they entered the hall the Populist janitor turned off the steam. The military guards permit no one to enter and the Republicans have no way of supplying themselves with food or with artificial heat. The Republicans have become masters of the representative hall. Only two means of dislodging them presented themselves to the Populist leaders. One was to put them out and the other was to starve them out. The hot-headed leaders advised that the militia be called out and be ordered to enter the hall.

More conservative council prevailed and Governor Lewelling decided to lay siege to the citadel and starve the occupants into submission. It was decided that troops were necessary to effect the object and the governor ordered several companies of the national guard to repair at once to the state house. Two local companies were soon placed in the field and during the day several more commands arrived.

At nightfall four hundred men had been put in active service and five hundred more are en route to the city. They were put under command of Colonel Hughes, Third regiment, who disposed the men about the capitol in such a way as to prevent all egress or ingress. They were under orders to allow no one to take edibles in any form into the building and the starving out process was begun. Before the guards were established the Republicans succeeded in providing themselves with a sandwich lunch at noon. Since then, however, they have been unable to get anything to eat and the prospects are that they will be starved into surrender unless they are relieved by reinforcements. Right here arises the probability of an armed conflict between Republican guards and the state militia. The Republican members have kept the wires hot all day, sending messages to their constituents informing them of the desperate situation of affairs and calling for Republican volunteers to come to Topeka at once and lend their aid to the Republican house.

Responses have been received from all over the state stating that volunteers have offered their services by the hundreds and will arrive in Topeka by the first train.

The Republican volunteers will be asked to support the Republicans in the occupancy of representative hall until the courts decide which is the legally constituted house. In complying with this request it will be necessary for them to disperse the state troops around the capitol. Such a proceeding would seem to necessitate a battle, but the Republicans predict that the militia, being composed mostly of Republicans, will not resist the attack of the volunteers should the latter proceed to such extreme measures.

On the other hand Governor Lewelling has made a call for provisional troops. He issued a proclamation late this afternoon, stating that as the state militia now in Topeka was not sufficient to control the situation five provisional companies should be organized. One

enough men responded to form three companies of thirty men.

The situation at 10 o'clock to-night is just this:

The Republicans are masters of the situation within the representative hall and the Populists are masters without. Five hundred troops are on guard around the building, while five hundred more are on their way from different points. Hundreds of Republican volunteers armed for battle are gathering from all parts of the state. Populists have been organized into provisional troops. The militia, being Republican in sympathies, will probably not obey an order to shoot down their political brethren, while the provisional companies composed of Populists are prepared to go almost to any extreme to defeat Republican plans and maintain the Populist position. In the meantime the Republican house is being besieged and representatives are cut off from their base of supplies and with no supplies in store. No one dares predict what the morrow will bring forth. Few hope for a peaceable solution of the difficulty, many expect bloodshed, and all are holding their breath in anticipation.

LATER--THE FIRST CONFLICT.

The first conflict between soldiers and members of the Republican house took place late to-night in the corridor leading to representative hall. Representatives Davis and Breidenthal who had escaped for lunch were challenged on the way back. Breidenthal drew his revolver and told the guard if he did not lower his bayonet that he would blow his head off. The guard allowed the member to pass.

The governor at 11 o'clock called again upon the sheriff to summon a posse to preserve the peace and the sheriff again refused to obey. Colonel Hughes, who is a member of the house, appeared before the house in uniform at 11:30 and addressing the members informed them that as commander of the troops they had nothing to fear from him. He would sooner resign his command than carry out an order to eject the Republican house.

Col. Hughes retired with cheers, and in less than a minute a string was dangling from every window. In shorter time than that baskets filled with substantial lunches were hoisted up and the Republicans broke their long fast. Informations from the governor's office is to the effect that no attempt is to be made to eject the Republicans to-morrow morning.

Events of the Day.

TOPEKA, KAN., Feb. 15.--The long expected crisis has arrived and there now seems no way to prevent a dangerous clash between the Populists and Republicans in the legislature.

When the Republicans went to enter the hall of representatives at 10 o'clock this morning they found the doors had been barred. They were barred by the Populists. The Republican leaders determined to force an entrance and sledge hammers were soon secured for this purpose. They were used to such effect upon the door of a side entrance to the hall that they were soon demolished and the members of the Republican house filed quickly through and entered the hall.

Had the Populists' house been in session a conflict would surely have resulted but fortunately the Populist house yesterday adjourned until 1 o'clock to-day and consequently was not in session at the time.

As soon as it became known by the Populists what had occurred Governor Lewelling was notified. He promptly called out the militia and instructed them to proceed to the house and eject the Republican house from the floor. The soldiers started on their mission. The Republicans being informed of the action of the governor held a hurried conference to determine upon what course of action to pursue. No definite plan was decided upon, but individual Republicans tried to induce the Santa Fe railroad to call out its shop to oppose the militia in ejecting the Republicans from the hall.

Other industries that were known to be in sympathy with the Republicans were also asked to furnish men for the same purpose. Downstairs the Populists were not idle. Company "C," a local militia company which Adjutant General Artz had notified last night to stand in readiness was already on the ground and orders were telegraphed to Norton and Marion for Companies "D" and "G" and it was reported that they would soon be on the way by special train.

While these warlike preparations were going on the Republican house was making a show of business, but nobody took any interest in the proceedings until Mr. Hale, of Rush, arose and said that it was fitting that the efforts of Speaker Douglas should be recognized by his brothers, and he desired to present to him in the name of the house the instrument which he had used to call the house to order this morning. As he said this he produced from behind his desk the big sledge-hammer the speaker had used to help effect an entrance into the hall of the house, and which he afterwards used in rapping the house to order. This was the signal for more cheering, and when Douglas received it from the hands of the page he held it aloft. The members stood up and shouted, and when Douglas used it as a gavel they fairly danced.

Not satisfied with their morning's triumph, the Republicans, who now had their war paint on, offered a resolution testing the resistance made at noon by the Populists in running the Populist blockade and secured sandwiches and coffee for lunch. Enough was left over for a meagre meal this evening, but when that is gone all is gone, and with all hope of eating except at the cost of unconditional surrender. Any one who leaves the hall who desires, but once he leaves he leaves for good, and is not permitted to return. At 6 o'clock the Republicans telephoned from representative hall to a caterer to prepare a lunch and to deliver it at the hall. In the event of being unable to send it through the lines he was instructed to take it to a position under one of the windows of representative hall, from which position the Republicans would elevate it by means of a rope to representative hall. The caterer's messenger, while attempting to carry out the order, was challenged by the pickets and arrested and his stores confiscated. He was allowed to go after being remanded and cautioned. The Republicans thus found themselves in a position which cannot be maintained for long.

The only weapons shown by the Populists were in the hands of A. J. Boyd, who had a Winchester, and a man named Honkin, who had a revolver. G. C. Chenns, who was on guard at the hall of the lock stairway had a heavy cane with a hooked handle. No attempt was made to use the weapons except by Chenns, who, with a broad grin on his face, used the crook of his

came to catch Republicans by the ankles as they passed up the stairway thus tripping them down. As they fell others fell on them and at one time a dozen or more Populists and Republicans were writhing together.

REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVE.

This morning the Santa Fe train from Atchison and other places along the line brought seventy-five Republicans to act as assistant sergeant-at-arms, and other trains are expected to bring additional reinforcements from points near Topeka.

Speaker Douglas, of the Republicans, has issued an appeal to the citizens of Kansas asking them for their "moral aid and active support" to help maintain the organization of the Republican council and resist the forces of anarchy and revolution, who openly proclaim their determination in advance to disregard judgment of the courts and to continue in defiance of the law.

In the governor's reception room there is a large crowd of Populists. Before the house was called to order the Republicans found the room of the sergeant-at-arms barred. The door was promptly broken down. Then they proceeded to eject the Populist guards from the chief clerk's room. One Populist made a show of resistance and he was picked up bodily and carried out of the room. They announced that they intend to hold fast to what they have captured, and to do so with force if necessary. Carrying out this purpose they determined to remain in the hall and sent out for their dinners.

GENUINE WAR.

All this meant more trouble this afternoon. The Populists, backed by the militia and the governor, would, of course, attempt to expel persons who disputed the authority of the Populist house, and as the Republicans were in a mood to fight, a genuine battle was looked for.

The Republicans nailed, barred and propped every door leading to the hall. The Populists decided to freeze out the Republicans and the janitor shut off the steam from the hall. The Populists also undertook to starve out the Republicans. The men who were sent after the luncheon for the Republicans could not get past the militia lines. The Republican house was therefore in a state of siege.

A militia company was stationed near the arsenal with guards posted. The cannons were run out of the arsenal and loaded with shot and everything wore a decidedly warlike appearance. The militia had now the control of the situation, and every movement of the Populist house would depend on the action of the executive. Col. Hughes, of the Third regiment, a Populist, has been relieved from duty because he refused to obey the adjutant general.

APPEAL TO THE SHERIFF.

The Populists, anticipating the events of to-day, attempted to throw the burden of the situation on Sheriff Wilkinson, of this county. The governor informed him officially late yesterday evening that rumors apparently well founded were in circulation to the effect that a lawless mob (the Republican house of representatives) contemplated the forcible invasion of the hall of the house of representatives, and called upon him to summon a sheriff's posse competent to resist such lawless invasion and to preserve the peace.

Speaker Dunsmore, of the Populist house, sent the following to the sheriff: "Sir, I hereby call on you, a sheriff of Shawnee county, for sufficient force to preserve the peace and authority of the house of deputies."

The sheriff, after taking legal advice, refused to comply with the demand of the governor and Populist speaker. The reply of the sheriff determined the governor to call out the militia, and after the Republicans made forcible entrance to the representative hall he wired the commanders of the various companies to repair at once with their commands to the scene of hostilities. Since the inauguration of the Populist government the state militia has received but little official attention. The appointment of Adjutant General Artz was only confirmed yesterday.

The only capable officer of rank on the ground is Col. J. W. F. Hughes. To him, late this afternoon, Adjutant General Artz delivered the following order: "You are hereby ordered to assume active command of all officers and men of the Kansas National Guard assembled in Topeka and around the state house."

(Signed) "L. D. LEWELLING, Commander-in-Chief."

Upon receiving the order, Colonel Hughes at once took charge and brought order out of chaos. The various companies, which had been drawn up about the state house according to the ideas of the individual commanders, were given stations at the four main entrances to the capitol on its four sides. Squads of men were posted at all the basement entrances, sentinel lines were thrown out and the situation assumed a really military aspect. The forces were divided into three parts, each to remain on active duty eight hours, while the other two, while being held in reserve, are permitted to obtain rest and refreshment.

REPUBLICANS UNDER SIEGE.

This plan was adopted to aid in carrying out the general plan of a siege. The Populists decided to not force the issue by an assault upon the Republican position in representative hall, but to conquer the enemy by siege, and thus avert a conflict and possible bloodshed.

The Republican house is in no condition to stand a prolonged siege. During the excitement prevalent at noon they succeeded in running the Populist blockade and secured sandwiches and coffee for lunch. Enough was left over for a meagre meal this evening, but when that is gone all is gone, and with all hope of eating except at the cost of unconditional surrender. Any one who leaves the hall who desires, but once he leaves he leaves for good, and is not permitted to return. At 6 o'clock the Republicans telephoned from representative hall to a caterer to prepare a lunch and to deliver it at the hall. In the event of being unable to send it through the lines he was instructed to take it to a position under one of the windows of representative hall, from which position the Republicans would elevate it by means of a rope to representative hall. The caterer's messenger, while attempting to carry out the order, was challenged by the pickets and arrested and his stores confiscated. He was allowed to go after being remanded and cautioned. The Republicans thus found themselves in a position which cannot be maintained for long.

TO ANNEX HAWAII.

President Harrison Sends His Recommendation for Annexation

TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

It Receives Almost Unanimous Favorable Consideration in Executive Session--The Message Not Yet Given to the Public--Minister Stevens' Additional Reasons for Establishing a Temporary Protectorate--Other Washington News.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.--The President sent a message to the senate this afternoon recommending the annexation of the Hawaiian islands to the United States. It is accompanied by a treaty of annexation concluded between the secretary of state and the Hawaiian commissioners and a mass of correspondence relating to the question at issue. The treaty is brief, providing merely for the annexation of the islands under the present provisional government and leaving the details of the permanent form of government, etc., to the action of Congress. Contrary to general expectation the senate in executive session declined to make the treaty public immediately, but decided to first have the message and documents printed for the confidential information of senators.

There was no debate beyond a few questions directed to the chairman of the foreign relations committee, but every word was carefully weighed, and the message and treaty met with almost general approval.

Among the detailed dispatches received at the state department from Honolulu is one from Minister Stevens giving an interesting account of the reasons which governed him in assuming control of the island. It follows: "I have time before the departure of the mail steamer only to state briefly the additional reasons which caused us to assume a temporary protectorate of these islands."

"The provisional government must have time to organize a new police and to discipline a small military force. When the monarchy died by its own hand there was no military force in the island but the royal guard of about seventy-five natives, not an effective force equal to twenty American soldiers. There are 40,000 Chinese and Japanese on the islands, and evil-disposed persons might stir some of them to disorder. But the chief elements of evil are in Honolulu, where are the renegade whites at the head of the lottery and opium rings and a considerable number of hoodlum foreigners and the more vicious of the natives."

"Another important reason for our action is the possibility of the arrival here of a British war vessel, and the English minister here thus aided might try to press unduly the provisional government. With the islands under our protection we think the English minister will not attempt to insist that his government has the right to interfere while our flag is over the government building."

In concluding his dispatch Minister Stevens says: "As a necessary precaution against all contingencies, I advise that Admiral Serratt be promptly sent here with one or two ships in addition to the Boston."

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

The Nicaragua Canal Bill in the Senate.

Pension Question in the House.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 15.--The Nicaragua canal bill, though having the advantage of being the "unfinished business," had to give way to-day in the senate to the sundry civil appropriation bill.

The amendments reported by the committee, allowing to the widow of Chief Justice Waite and Justice Miller, of the supreme court, the balance of their husbands' salary for the year of their deaths, \$8,745 and \$7,410, were agreed to. The reading of the bill having been finished, the reserved amendments were taken up, the first being the series in reference to the world's columbian exposition.

Mr. Quay offered his amendment making all appropriations for the exposition conditional on Sunday closing. Mr. Allison hoped that Mr. Quay would not press that amendment. It was only a reproduction of part of the legislation of last year, every provision of which had been complied with. With that assurance, Mr. Quay withdrew his amendment and then all the committee amendments as to the World's Fair were agreed to.

The next series of amendments were those for the improvement of rivers and harbors--the first being a reduction of the amount for Philadelphia harbor from \$500,000 to \$300,000. At 2 p. m. the unfinished business--the Nicaragua canal bill--was laid before the senate; but at the request of Mr. Morgan it was laid aside temporarily and the consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill was proceeded with.

A long discussion ensued, and was still going on, when Mr. Pruden, one of the secretaries of the President, appeared as the bearer of a message. As soon as it reached the Vice President, Mr. Sherman knowing that it related to Hawaii, moved to proceed to executive business. The motion was agreed to; the galleries were cleared, the doors closed and the senate was left to discuss the Hawaiian question in secret. When the doors were reopened the business of the senate was suspended, in order that fitting tribute might be paid to the memory of the late Representative McDonald, of New Jersey. The usual resolutions of regret were agreed to and the senate adjourned.

IN THE HOUSE.

After the house had today passed the senate bill giving General Doubleday's widow \$50 per month pension, consideration of the pension appropriation bill was resumed. Mr. Boutelle, (Rep., Me.), spoke vigorously against the adoption of the proposed amendments of the pension law. It had been said that the union veterans would be as safe in the hands of the ex-Confederates as they had been in the hands of the Republican party. Much as he regretted it, it was his duty to say that the plan, unmistakable record of Congress showed that upon every ques-

tion affecting the liberality of the government in pensioning the men who saved its life, the ex-Confederate members had been almost uniformly and almost, if not quite, solid against it.

This subject, which lay so dear to the hearts of the loyal people of the country, had been taken out of the hands of the committees composed of loyal men and had been untimely thrust before this house by a majority of men who had fought against the country. There was no chivalry in tampering with the generosity of the government and in using against the government the very weapons which its generosity had returned to the hands of the men who had attempted to destroy it.

A VOICE FROM THE SOUTH.

Mr. Oates said that he had but one moment to say a word as to the misrepresentation of the ex-Confederates on the floor of this house made by the gentleman from Maine. The gentleman's charge was a general one, that ex-Confederates had voted against the pensioning of union soldiers. The gentleman had stated that this was in pursuance of the declaration which had been made some years ago that the Democratic party would never cease its efforts until the last vestige of war legislation had been wiped from the statute books. That charge had been made against Mr. Blackburn, of Kentucky, when he was a member of this body. But that charge had been denied by Mr. Blackburn and he (Mr. Oates) defied the gentleman to find such a remark in the Congressional Record.

Mr. Boutelle said that he did not remember who the member was that had made the remark.

Mr. Oates replied that he did remember the circumstances alluded to, and he put the denial of Mr. Blackburn against the charge of the gentleman from Maine.

Mr. Boutelle stated that he had used it only as illustrating the attitude of the Democratic party to-day.

Mr. Oates--And it was false.

Mr. Boutelle--I would not say that.

Mr. Oates--(Continuing) I said that the other charges of the gentlemen were equally unfortunate and illy founded. The gentleman had stated that the Democrats had refused to put Gen. Grant on the retired list during his last illness. They had done nothing of the kind. When the bill came up Gen. Grant was not ill. And the gentleman knew that the opposition was not opposition to Gen. Grant (whom all ex-Confederates admired as a soldier, but opposition to the principle of reinstating any man who had resigned from the army in order to take a civil position. No gentleman could charge him or any other ex-Confederate of opposing a proper pension to any union soldier who was worthy of a pension.

WILL BE HOKE SMITH.

Cleveland Offers Him the Secretaryship of the Interior and He Accepts.

New York, Feb. 15.--Mr. Cleveland was at his office to-day, and among his callers was Hoke Smith, of Georgia. It has been definitely ascertained that Mr. Smith was offered the secretaryship of the interior by Mr. Cleveland during their conference and that he has accepted.

CINCINNATI'S DANGER.

The River Likely to do Great Damage. Precautions Taken by Merchants.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 15.--The flood in the river is becoming a matter of concern to the people in the lower part of Cincinnati. The water at 2 o'clock had reached 51 feet 11 inches, and was rising at the rate of 2 1/2 inches an hour. About 12:30 the wharfloat, anchored at the foot of Main street, sprang a leak and sank in about an hour. This accident is thought to be due to the fact that a large quantity of iron ore was removed from the lower end of the boat. Men were at once put to work removing the remaining freight from the sinking boat. The lower end of the wharfloat sank first, and this gave better opportunity for saving goods on board than would otherwise have been afforded. It is thought that all the freight can be saved.

The water has entered the cellars on Water street, the first thoroughfare above the river front and the tenants of Rat Row and Sausage Row are seeking higher quarters. The flood in the Ohio has backed up Mill creek so that some inconveniences on account of the high water is felt in Cumminsville, a northern suburb of the city.

High Water in Illinois.

BLOOMINGTON, ILL., Feb. 15.--The sudden thaw and the rapid outflowing of water and ice have deluged the lowlands of Central Illinois and put all the streams, great and small, on the rampage. The Sangamon, the Kaskaskia, the Mackinaw and Salt Creek are out of their banks and the railroad and wagon bridges are in danger. The tracks of the Lake Erie & Western and other roads are a foot under water at Farmdale, a few miles east of Peoria on account of the freshet in Farm creek, and the town of East Peoria is flooded.

The Rising Wabash.

WABASH, IND., Feb. 15.--The rains have swollen the Wabash river until, in this vicinity, it is away out of its banks and covering the adjacent lowlands. To make the situation more serious the heavy ice in the river is breaking up and jamming at various points along the river. All the factories in the bottom are preparing for a tremendous flood when the ice starts, and are getting their valuable stock above high water mark.

TELEGRAPHIC BRIEFS.

The eastern and western rail mail men at Pittsburgh yesterday adopted a resolution that the wire mail schedule of extras be adopted, and that each manufacturer of cut nails pledge himself and his company that he will not quote, nor will he permit any quotations to be made for his account on any basis of averages.

The flood in the Susquehanna river, which has been threatening Fort Deposit, Md., for some days passed assumed alarming proportions yesterday. The citizens are in a high state of excitement and many have taken refuge on the hills surrounding the town.

At the Panama investigation yesterday Judge Seligman testified that \$40,000,000 had been expended in America, and that his books would show it. He promised to produce them.

Members of the committee of arrangements of the Western Glass Association met at Chicago and completed arrangements for holding the annual convention there in May.

THIS MEANS BUSINESS.

Champion James Corbett Deposits His Check for \$10,000.

FORMALLY CHALLENGING MITCHELL

And Another for \$2,500, Accepting Peter Jackson's Challenge--The Battle Must Take Place Next December--Unusual Demands, Which the Champion Explains--If Mitchell "Flunks" He Will Fight Jackson on His Own Terms--Corbett's Statement in Full.

New York, Feb. 15.--William A. Brady, the manager of James J. Corbett, champion heavy weight pugilist of the world, called at the World office to-day in company with William Delaney and deposited one check of \$10,000 to bind a match with Charles Mitchell, of England, and another of \$2,500 to bind a match with Peter Jackson, of Australia, under the terms of the following statement:

In accordance with the plans laid out for myself on September 7 last, I take this opportunity of announcing that I am now prepared to defend the title I hold. In evidence of my good faith, I hereby deposit \$10,000, and I have authorized William A. Brady and William Delaney to meet Charles Mitchell, of England, or his representatives, and arrange a match to box to a finish for the championship of the world, \$10,000 a side, and the largest purse offered by the Coney Island Athletic Club, the Olympic Athletic Club, of New Orleans, or the Crescent City Athletic Club, of the same city, the contest to be according to Marquis of Queensbury rules, the club to have no power to stop the same or to declare a draw. It must be to a finish.

On account of prevalent contracts and the necessary three months I will require to train, the battle will have to take place next December. If Mitchell accepts this proposition I insist on his depositing the whole amount of the side bet, \$10,000, at once, and also that he agrees to the final stakeholder whom the articles are signed. I make this unusual demand because I do not think that Mitchell is in earnest, and can only judge him by his previous actions. He signed a contract to box six rounds with me last February and deliberately broke the contract after I had started to train.

To Peter Jackson:

I hereby accept Peter Jackson's challenge of recent date, and deposit the sum of \$2,500 as a forfeit to bind a match under the following conditions: If Charles Mitchell does not accept my terms for a contest with him, I am prepared to box Peter Jackson to a finish next December for \$10,000 a side and the largest purse offered by the Coney Island Athletic Club, the Olympic Athletic Club, of New Orleans, or the Crescent City Athletic Club, of the same city. If Mitchell does accept the above proposition, I will make a match immediately with Peter Jackson to fight seven months after I meet Mitchell for the amount mentioned in his challenge. If Mr. Jackson so desires I will increase my deposit to \$10,000 at once, if he will do the same, said amount to be forfeited in case either of us shall not act in accordance with the agreement. I am prepared to sign at once, or further, if Mr. Mitchell should sign to meet me and then "dunk," Jackson is at liberty to take his (Mitchell's) place in December next.

(Signed) JAMES J. CORBETT.

THE O'DONNELL TRIAL.

The Defense Attempts to Show that the Prisoner Was Disinterested.

PITTSBURGH, PA., Feb. 15.--The defense in the O'Donnell trial attempted to-day to show that O'Donnell was a correspondent and was at Homestead the day of the riot acting in that capacity. A number of newspaper men were called as witnesses, and it was shown that previous to the riot he had been doing work for the tri-state news bureau and several Pittsburgh papers.

Robert W. Herbert, of the Pittsburgh Dispatch, was on the stand when court opened. He testified that on the afternoon of July 4 he was in the capitol when O'Donnell came to him and being displeased with an interview he wrote collected some men and offered to throw him down the capitol stack. The man expressed a willingness to do so. Under cross-examination the witness said he accepted the threat as a joke.

Richard Collins, a reporter for the Pittsburgh Chronicle Telegraph testified to having been in the mill during the evening when O'Donnell made his speech advising that the Pinkertons be allowed to cut loose the barges and float down the river. According to the witness, O'Donnell said:

"We have lost heavily and the Pinkertons have too. Let's let them go and have no more bloodshed."

A man in the assembly called out: "No, burn the bloody buggers."

"Who is that man?" cried O'Donnell. He was shown and O'Donnell said: "You go down and kill them yourself. We have been trying all day. We will wait."

Court then adjourned for dinner. At the afternoon session Mr. O'Donnell's wife was present in the courtroom for the first time during the trial. Several newspaper men were examined, the general trend of their evidence going to show that O'Donnell interfered to protect the Pinkertons at the time of the latter's surrender. Edward O. Christie, a reporter, testified that at midnight on the night of the fight he interviewed O'Donnell at the labor leader's home. There was a rifle lying on a table, which O'Donnell said the Pinkerton chief had given him. Witness asked if it was loaded, whereupon the defendant replied: "I have no use for any other kind."

The prosecution having rested, court adjourned until to-morrow.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For Western Pennsylvania and Ohio, generally fair, except light frost about 10 p. m.; light easterly wind; moderate in southeastern Ohio and southwestern Pennsylvania.

For West Virginia, generally fair, but, easterly winds; very mild.

For Kentucky and Tennessee, as furnished by C. W. Sawyer, draught, corner Market and Fourteenth streets.

7 a. m. temperature 54 | 2 p. m. 55 | 10 a. m. wind velocity 10 | Weather changeable.